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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII
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DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2466

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November 17, 1999

SENT VIA FACSIMILE AND REGULAR MAIL

Ref: 8ENF-L

John R. Jacus
Davis, Graham & Stubbs LLP
370 17th Street, Suite 4700
Denver, CO 80201-0185

Re: Hecla Mining Co., Docket No. RCRA-8-99-06
Clarification of Work Plan Submittal Stay by EPA

Dear Mr. Jacus:

I am writing to clarify the language in my letter to Mr. John Galbavy dated October 28, 1999, regarding the work plan submittal stay agreed to by my staff during the informal conference call on October 8, 1999. Please be assured that the letter was not intended to require Hecla to submit the work plans required in paragraph no. 60 of the Order Requiring Monitoring, Testing, Analysis and Reporting ("Order") by November 30, 1999.

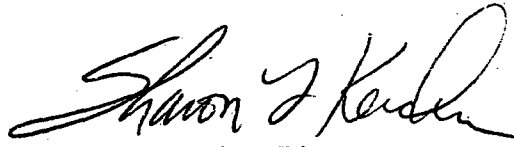
As discussed during the October 8th conference call, EPA has agreed to stay the forty-five day work plan submittal deadline set forth in the Order pending consideration of the issues raised by Hecla during the call and notice to Hecla of the Agency's decision regarding the Order. EPA plans to make and inform Hecla of its final decision by Friday, November 19, 1999. As my staff informed you yesterday, EPA will provide Hecla with written notice of its decision via certified mail after the 19th. The forty-five day time-frame for submitting the work plans will commence upon Hecla's receipt of the notice if the Agency determines to proceed with the Order.

I trust that this letter clarifies any confusion on Hecla's part regarding the work plan submittal deadline. Please do not hesitate to contact Amy Swanson at 303.312-6906 if you have any additional questions regarding this matter.



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Sincerely,



Sharon Kercher, Director
Technical Enforcement Program
Office of Compliance, Enforcement,
and Environmental Justice

cc:

John Galbavy, Hecla Mining Company
Tina Aretnis, Regional Hearing Clerk



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